

Weekly Update: November 2, 2005



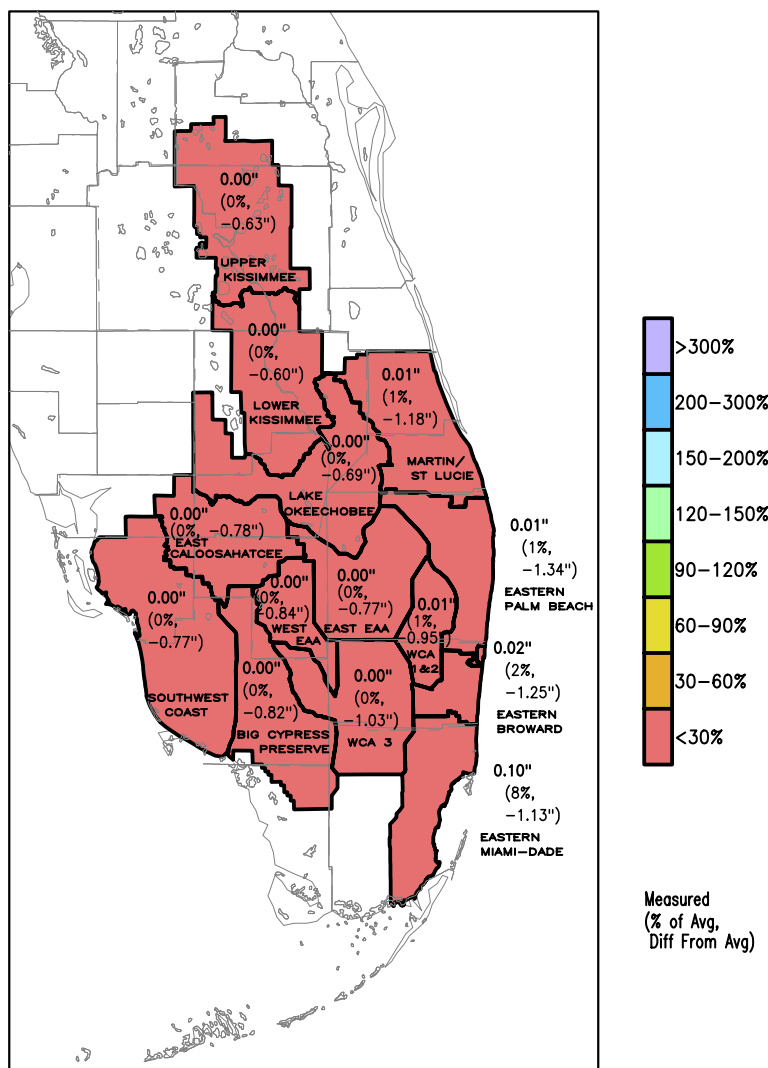
just the FACTs

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in south Florida.

State of the Water Management System

To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.

SFWMD Rainfall
26-OCT-2005 to 01-NOV-2005



DISTRICT-WIDE: 0.01" (1%, -0.85")

GrADS: COLA/IGES

2005-11-01-13:03

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was less than 1/4".
- Rainfall for the next 7 days will be above normal (south and east) to normal (north).
- District-wide rainfall for the month of October was 8".



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System-wide overview:

Rainfall associated with Hurricane Wilma averaged 4.33" district-wide, with values of 6.75" and higher in the Upper Kissimmee basin and approximately 5.25" over the Caloosahatchee watershed, Lake Okeechobee, lower Kissimmee basin and Everglades Agricultural Area. The total for the month of October was 8" which is 210% of normal (average is 3.81"), and the rainfall total for the wet season was 41.19" or 125% of average. This reflects the fact that there was a tropical system every month of this past wet season.

Lake Okeechobee — Lake level is at 16.52 ft NGVD, almost 1 ft higher than two weeks ago. Based on the USACE web site, Lake Okeechobee stage is at 16.52' NGVD, almost 1 foot higher than two weeks ago. Preliminary reports on the condition of the lake after Hurricane Wilma indicate that the lake is again very turbid and much of the emergent vegetation on the south and west shores has been uprooted. Additional information will be available next week.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin — In the upper basin, the majority of the lakes are above regulation schedule, with levels just starting to decline. The Kissimmee River floodplain rose 6 ft due to the storm. Water levels in the restoration areas are currently too high to determine if there has been damage.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries — This week, water quality will be sampled in both estuaries, San Carlos Bay and in the Indian River Lagoon near the St. Lucie Inlet. Freshwater extends at least down to Cape Coral in the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Conditions in both estuaries are poor.

Water Conservation Areas — All depths decreased significantly. However, WCA-1 remains below regulation schedule, and WCA-2A and WCA-3A remain above regulation schedule. Prolonged deep water may stress trees in these areas as well as the foraging and breeding activities of mammals, reptiles and some birds.

Everglades National Park — Rain gauges have been damaged during recent storms, so reliable data from the park is not available.

Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the park. The map on page one captures District rain gauge data only.

Florida Bay — It appears that Hurricane Wilma brought a surge of higher salinity water well up into Taylor River, Shark River and into McCormick Creek. Most of the data from U.S. Geological Survey show some decline in salinity over the past week.

* SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.

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Algae Update — As of November, monitoring will be performed on a monthly basis on blue-green algae in Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie River/Estuary, Caloosahatchee River, Kissimmee River/Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and the District's eastern canals at 41 fixed monitoring sites. Data will be posted on the District's blue-green algae web site at <http://www.sfwmd.gov/site/index.php?id=611>.